BV
352.0742b
A189
c.1

Town

of

Acworth

New Hampshire

N. H. STATE LIBRARY
APR 30 2003
CONCORD, NH

2002
Annual Report

Annual Report

of the

Selectmen

and other

Town Officers

of the

Town of Acworth

New Hampshire

For The Year Ending December 31, 2002

Please Bring this Town Report to Town Meeting on Tuesday, March 11, 2003

Printed by The Letter Man Press, Claremont, NH

INDEX

Town Officers & Committees 3
Regular Meetings & Events 5
Warrant For Town of Acworth 2003 6
Budget 10
Minutes For Town Meeting March 12, 2002 13
Minutes For Town Meeting May 7, 2002 17
Tax Collector's Report 18
Treasurer's Report 20
Comparative Statement of Appropriations & Expenditures 24
Detailed Statement of Revenues 25
Summary of Accounts Held by Treasurer 26
Town Clerk's Report 27
Schedule of Town Property 28
Tax Rate Calculation 29
Selectmen's Report 30
Recreation Committee Report 32
Planning Board Report 33
Police Department Report 34
Volunteer Fire and Rescue Co., Inc. Report 35
Road Agent Report 36
Library Report 37
Library Trustees Report 38
Trust Funds 40
Capital Reserve Accounts 41
Health Officer's Report 42
Solid Waste Report 44
Recycling Information 45
Cemetery Trustees Report 46
Vital Statistics 47

TOWN OFFICERS & COMMITTEES

Moderator	Kenneth Grant – 2005
Board of Selectmen	Thomas Esslinger - 2003 Lyman Young – 2004 John Balla – 2005
Town Clerk	Brenda Longley – 2004
Tax Collector	Grant Tallman
Treasurer	Earl Luther, Jr
Supervisors of Checklist	Elizabeth Gowen - 2003 Roselva A. Dearden – 2004 Gordon H. Gowen – 2006
Overseer of Public Welfare	Selectmen
Health Officer	Donna Dutton
Auditor	Cheryl Fernald
Trustees of Trust Fund	Kathi Bradt - 2003 Alston Barrett - 2004 Marguerite Hanson - 2005
Library Trustee	Ella Brown - 2003 David McWethy - 2003 Melinda Loiselle - 2003 Marguerite Hanson - 2004 Ruth Balla - 2005
Administrative Assistant to Board of Selectmen	Grant Tallman
Budget Committee	James Brown - 2003 Howell Longley - 2003 Ralph Balla - 2004 Hugh Gendron - 2004 Linda Christie - 2005 Torrey Greene - 2005
Road Agent	Don Porter
Road Committee	J. Matthew Balla- 2003 Timothy Butson - 2003 Charles Bradt - 2004 Hugh Gendron - 2004 Howell Longley - 2005 James Phinizy - 2005

Planning Board	Brenda Longley - 2003 Pamela McWethy - 2003 William Symonds - 2004 Bruce Bascom - 2004 Richard Bishop - 2005 Stephen Davis - 2005
Conservation Commission	John Demars - 2003 Rob DeValk - 2003 Debbi Hinman - 2004 Hugh Gendron - 2004 Samuel Stephens - 2005 Peter Wotowiec - 2005 Lyman Young – Selectmen
Tree Warden	G. Kristian Fenderson
Zoning Board of Adjustment	James Phinizy - 2003 Gary Dutton - 2003 Pat LeClair - 2004 Edward Metsack - 2004 Rob DeValk - 2005 Charles Ginter – 2005 Peter Wotowiec - Alternate
Recreation Committee	Mary Lord Brian Gendron Hugh Gendron
Fall Mt. Regional School Board Member	James Elsesser
Town Forester	Peter Rhoades
Recycling Committee	Earl Luther, Jr Sam Stephens John Tuthill

REGULAR MEETINGS AND EVENTS

TOWN HALL	835-6879
SELECTMEN	EVERY MONDAY NIGHT AT 7:30PM THOMAS ESSLINGER, CHAIRMAN
TOWN CLERK	MON., TUES., & WED., FROM 6:30PM – 8:00PM SAT. MORNINGS 9:00AM – 11:00AM BRENDA LONGLEY – CLERK – 835-6757
PLANNING BOARD	LAST WED., OF THE MONTH AT 7:30PM RICHARD BISHOP, CHAIRMAN
CONSERVATION COMMISSION	SECOND WED., OF MONTH – 7:30PM SAM STEPHENS, CHAIRMAN
ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENTS	FIRST WED., OF MONTH AT 7:30PM EDWARD METSACK, CHAIRMAN
RECYCLING COMMITTEE	FIRST TUES., OF MONTH AT 7:30PM TOWN HALL
RECREATION COMMITTEE	SECOND MON. AT 7:00PM
LIBRARY TRUSTEES	SECOND TUES., 9:30AM – AT LIBRARY
LIBRARY HOURS	SUNDAY 1:00PM - 4:00PM TUES. & THURS. 10:00AM – 4:00PM
DUMP HOURS	SAT. 8:00AM – 4:00PM WED. 11:00AM – 6:00PM SUN. 9:00 – 1:00PM
EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBERS	FIRE - 352-1100 CLAREMONT DISPATCH - 542-7040

WARRANT FOR TOWN OF ACWORTH
MARCH 11, 2003

To the inhabitants of the Town of Acworth, NH in the County of Sullivan in said state, qualified to vote in Town affairs:

You are hereby notified to bring your votes for Town Officers, and any other questions, to the Town Hall on Tuesday, the 11th day of March next, between the hours of 10:00 of the clock in the morning until nine of the clock in the evening to act upon the following:

ARTICLE ONE: To vote by non-partisan ballot for the following Town Officers:

Selectmen -- 1 for 3 Year Term
Tax Collector – 1 for 1 Year Term
Treasurer – 1 for 1 Year Term
Auditor -- 1 for 1 Year Term
Trustee of Trust Funds – 1 for 3Year Term
Library Trustee – 2 for 3 Year Terms
Library Trustee – 1 for 2 Year Term
Road Committee -- 2 for 3 Year Term
Planning Board -- 2 for 3 Year Terms
Budget Committee -- 2 for 3 Year Terms
Cemetery Trustee -- 1 for 1 Year Term
Cemetery Trustee -- 1 for 2 Year Term
Cemetery Trustee -- 1 for 3 Year Term
Supervisor of Checklist – 1 for 6 Year Term

ARTICLE TWO: To see if the town will vote by ballot for adoption of an amendment to the Acworth Zoning Ordinance of a RULES OF PROPORTIONALITY which will allow a fairer subdivision of parcels of land which lie partially in both the rural and residential districts. It clears up the problem of which regulations apply in determining lot size and frontage length. The Acworth Planning Board has approved this amendment.

ARTICLE THREE: To see if the town will vote by ballot for adoption of ACWORTH TELECOMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES ORDINANCE approved by the Acworth Planning Board in April 2002. These regulations have been enacted in order to establish general guidelines for the siting of towers and antennas. This Ordinance will enhance the ability of providers of telecommunications services to provide such services to the community effectively and efficiently while protecting the environment, safety and aesthetics of Acworth.

Furthermore, you are hereby notified that discussion and voting on the following articles will commence at 7:30 of the clock in the evening on March 11th next at the Town Hall.

ARTICLE FOUR: To see if the Town will accept the minutes of the Town Meeting of March 12th, 2002.

ARTICLE FIVE: To see if the Town will empower the Selectmen to serve as pound keepers, measurers of wood and fence viewers.

ARTICLE SIX: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from the Forest Management Fund into the General Fund up to $4000.00 of net revenue from the 2002-2003 Gove Town Forest Timber harvest, not to exceed 50% of the final harvest income.
Recommended by Selectmen and Budget Committee.

ARTICLE SEVEN: To see if the Town will accept the provisions of RSA 202-A:4-d

1. Authorizing the public library trustees to accept gifts of personal property, other than money, which may be offered to the library for any public purpose, and such authorization shall remain in effect until rescinded by a vote of town meeting. II Prior to the acceptance of any gift valued at over $5,000, the public library trustees shall hold a public hearing on the proposed acceptance. III No acceptance of any personal property under the authority of this section shall be deemed to bind the town or the library trustees to raise, appropriate, or expend any public funds for the operation, maintenance, repair, or replacement of such personal property.

By Request. Recommended by Selectmen.

ARTICLE EIGHT: To see if the town will accept the provisions of RSA 202-A:11-a - All money received from a library's income-generating equipment shall be retained by the library in a nonlapsing fund and used for general repairs and upgrading and for the purchase of books, supplies and income-generating equipment if approved by the town or city in which the library is located in accordance with RSA 202-A:11-b.
By Request. Recommended by Selectmen.

ARTICLE NINE: To see if the Town will vote to accept $200.00 in trust for the perpetual care of the Ernest S and Geneva W. Lanphear Lot in the Acworth Cemetery.
Recommended by Selectmen.

ARTICLE TEN: To see if the town will vote to provide formal conservation status to the town-owned parcels known as the "Acworth Town Wetlands" and the "Gove Town Forest" by placing a conservation easement through an appropriate land conservation organization (such as the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests). Said easement would preclude future building development on these parcels in the interest of maintaining their current respective status as wetland natural area and working forest.
Petition by the Acworth Conservation Commission.
Not Recommended by Selectmen.

ARTICLE ELEVEN: To see if the town will vote to call on our elected officials from all levels of government, and those seeking office. to work with consumers, businesses. and health care providers to ensure that: Everyone, including the self-employed, unemployed. un – and underinsured, and small business owners, has access to an affordable basic health plan similar to what federal employees receive; Everyone, including employers, consumers, and the state, local and federal government, makes a responsible and fair contribution to finance the health care system; Everyone receives high quality care that is cost efficient and medically effective; and That these efforts help control the skyrocketing cost of health care. By Petition. Not Recommended by Selectmen.

ARTICLE TWELVE: To see if the town will vote to change the Road Agent position from appointed to elected; and to hold a special meeting for said position in May 2003. By Petition. Not Recommended by Selectmen.

ARTICLE THIRTEEN: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $25,000.00 (Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars) to be placed in the existing Capital Reserve Fund for the future closure of the town dump. Recommended by the Selectmen and the Budget Committee.

ARTICLE FOURTEEN: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $25,000.00 (Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars) for the purchase of a new highway department loader-backhoe and further to expend from the existing Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Fund up to $45,000.00 (Forty-Five Thousand Dollars) for this purpose. Recommended by Selectmen & Budget Committee.

ARTICLE FIFTEEN: To see if the town will vote to authorize the establishment of a Capital Reserve Fund (Pursuant to RSA 35) for future work on Cold Pond Road and to raise and appropriate the sum of $50,000.00 (Fifty Thousand Dollars) to be placed in this fund and appoint the Selectmen as agents to expend from this fund. Recommended by Selectmen and Budget Committee.

ARTICLE SIXTEEN: To see if the town will participate in a discussion concerning whether the Village Store Property could house town offices. The Acworth Historical Society has an interest in using an existing and historical building and helping to secure the store's presence in the town. To see also if the town would consider whether a committee should be established and money budgeted to develop this idea. By Petition. Not Recommended by the Selectmen.

ARTICLE SEVENTEEN: To see if the town will vote to authorize the establishment of a capital reserve fund (Pursuant to RSA Chapter 35) for the future purchase of a fire truck by the Acworth Fire Department, and to raise and appropriate the sum of $10,000.00 (Ten Thousand Dollars) to be placed in this fund, and to appoint the selectmen as agents to expend from this fund.
The Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend this article subject to the submission of an appropriate plan by the Fire Department.

ARTICLE EIGHTEEN: To see if the Town will vote to raise sums of money as may become necessary to defray town charges for the ensuing year and make appropriations of the same as recommended in the Budget by the Budget Committee.

ARTICLE NINETEEN: To see if the town will vote to determine whether or not the Town of Acworth should encourage the Trustees of the Trust Funds to petition the Sullivan County Probate Court or Sullivan County Superior Court for permission to spend accrued excess income from eligible perpetual care trusts on the general care, capital improvements or future expansion of the cemetery. This is an advisory vote. Recommended by the Selectmen.

ARTICLE TWENTY: To vote to see if the town will ask our Congressional delegation to oppose the implementation of sections of the Patriot Act and the Homeland Security Act which stand in violation of American's basic rights and freedoms. The USA Patriot Act and the Homeland Security Act contain provisions threatening the guarantees of freedom and liberty set forth over two hundred years ago in the Bill of Rights of the United States Constitution: Freedom of speech, Right of assembly, Protection of privacy, The right to counsel and due process, Protection against unreasonable search and seizure. By Petition.

ARTICLE TWENTY-ONE: To transact any other business that may legally be brought before this Town Meeting.

Given under hands and seal of the Town of Acworth this 24th day of February 2003.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Thomas Esslinger
Lyman A Young

John W. Balla

A True Copy of Warrant Attest:
Thomas Esslinger
Lyman A. Young
John W. Balla

2003 BUDGET FOR TOWN OF ACWORTH

Purpose of Appropriation	Appropriations 2002	Expenditures 2002	Selectmen's Budget 2003	Recommended 2003
GENERAL GOVERNMENT				
Executive	12,500	12,100	12,000	12,000
Elec., Reg. & Vital Stat.	2,500	2,738	1,500	1,500
Financial Administration	10,500	6,399	10,500	10,500
Revaluation of Prop.	2,500	2,957	2,500	2,500
Legal Expense	4,000	6,577	15,000	15,000
Planning & Zoning	1,000	393	1,300	1,300
		NOT RECOMMENDED		1,300
Gen. Government Bldgs.	5,000	4,743	7,000	7,000
Cemeteries	3,000	12,070	3,000	3,000
Insurance	10,000	7,187	10,000	10,000
Town Office Exp.	23,700	20,785	38,000	38,000
PUBLIC SAFETY				
Police	23,100	25,618	23,100	23,100
"		NOT RECOMMENDED		4,636
Ambulance	2,700		2,870	2,870
Fire	22,000	22,102	23,000	23,000
"		NOT RECOMMENDED		10,000
Emergency Mgmt	1,000	156	1,000	1,000
HIGHWAYS & STREETS				
Highways & Streets	140,000	134,853	175,000	175,000
Street Lighting	2,000	2,004	2,100	2,100
Gen. Expenses	30,000	40,767	30,000	30,000
SANITATION				
Solid Waste Collection	67,000	60,552	69,000	69,000
HEALTH/WELFARE				
Pest Control	1,000	1,887	1,000	1,000
Health Agencies	8,000	2,828	8,000	8,000
Welfare	2,500	120	2,500	2,500
CULTURE & RECREATION				
Parks & Recreation	1,600	1,688	1,600	1,600
Library	18,600	18,600	23,600	23,600
Patriotic Purposes	150	150	150	150
CONSERVATION				
Admin. & Purchse of Nat. Resources	600	1,257	600	600
Other Conservation	-0-	2,000	-0-	-0-
DEBT SERVICE				
Int. on Tax Anti. Notes	1,000	-0-	1,000	1,000
CAPITAL OUTLAY				
Imp. Other Than Bldgs.	50,000	46,824	60,000	60,000
SUBTOTAL 1	445,950	437,355	535,320	535,320
		NOT RECOMMENDED		15,936

SPECIAL WARRANT ARTICLES				
Art. 9 Highway Equip. Reserve	15,000	15,000	-0-	-0-
Art. 10 Revaluation Reserve	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000
Art. 13 Dump Closure Reserve	25,000	25,000	-0-	-0-
Art. 16 Town Hall Repair	25,000	25,000	-0-	-0-
Art. 15 Cold Pond Rd. Paving Reserve			50,000	50,000
Art. 14 Highway Loader			70,000	70,000
Art. 17 Fire Truck Reserve			10,000	10,000
SUBTOTAL 2 RECOMMENDED			155,000	155,000

SOURCE OF REVENUE

	Estimated Revenues 2002	Actual Revenues 2002	Estimated Revenue 2003
TAXES			
Land Use Change Taxes	-0-	6,110	1,000
Timber Taxes	12,000	38,501	18,000
Int. & Penalties on Delinquent Taxes	15,000	16,187	15,000
Excavation Tax	75	46	50
LICENSES, PERMITS & FEES			
Motor Vehicle Permit Fees	80,000	95,723	85,000
Other Licenses, Permits & Fees	1,000	747	750
FROM STATE			
Shared Revenues	9,700	9,680	9,700
Meals & Rooms Tax Dist.	20,000	24,000	20,000
Highway Block Grant	109,110	109,110	114,791
State & Fed. Forest Land Reimbursement	300	395	350
CHARGES FOR SERVICES			
Income from Depts.	1,000	3,888	3,000
Other Charges	2,000	-0-	-0-
MISC. REVENUES			
Sale of Municipal Prop.	2,000	1,107	1,000
Int. on Investments	5,000	8,294	5,000
Other	1,000	20,369	11,000
INTERFUND OPERATING TRANSFERS IN			
From Cap. Reserve Funds (Highway Equip.)			45,000
From Trust & Agency Funds	2,000	-0-	-0-
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES			
Amounts VOTED from F/B ("Surplus")	25,000		
Fund Bal. to Reduce Taxes			60,000
TOTAL ESTIMATED REVENUE & CREDITS	285,185	334,157	389,641

BUDGET SUMMARY

	Prior Year Adopted Budget	Selectmen's Recommended Budget	Budget Committee's Recommended Budget
Subtotal 1 Appropriations	445,950	535,320	535,320
Subtotal 2	90,000	155,000	155,000
Total Appropriations	535,950	680,320	680,320
Less: Amt. of Est. Revenues & Credits	285,185	389,641	389,641
Est. Amt. of Taxes to be raised	250,765	290,679	290,679

Max. Allowable Increase to Budget Committee's Recommended Budget per RSA 32:18: 68,032

MINUTES FOR TOWN MEETING
MARCH 12, 2002

To the inhabitants of the Town of Acworth in the County of Sullivan in said state, qualified to vote in Town affairs:

You are hereby notified to bring in your votes for Town Officers, and any other questions, to the Town Hall on Tuesday the 12th day of March, between the hours of 10:00 of the clock in the morning until nine of the clock in the evening to act upon the following:

Kenneth Grant, Moderator, called the meeting to order. We had the Pledge of Allegiance and then he read the warrant.

ARTICLE ONE: To vote by non-partisan ballot for the following Town Officers.

Selectmen – 1 Year Term – Thomas Esslinger
Selectmen – 3 Year Term - John Balla
Tax Collector – Grant Tallman – 1 Year Term
Treasurer – Earl F. Luther, Jr – 1 Year Term
Auditor – Cheryl Fernald – 1 Year Term
Trustee of Trust Funds – Marguerite Hanson – 3 Year Term
Library Trustee – Ruth Balla – 3 Year Term
Nancy Miller – 3 Year Term
Road Committee – Howell Longley – 3 Year Term
James Phinizy – 3 Year Term
Planning Board – Pamela McWethy – 1 Year Term
Richard Bishop – 3 Year Term
Stephen Davis – 3 Year Term
Budget Committee – James Brown – 1Year Term
Linda Christie – 3 Year Term
Torrey Greene – 3 Year Term

Furthermore, you are hereby notified that discussion and voting on the following articles will commence at 7:30 of the clock in the evening on March 12th next at the Town Hall.

ARTICLE TWO: Motion was made by Jack Huber and seconded by Jim Brown to accept the minutes of the Town Meeting of March 13, 2001. Jan Augustinowicz brought up the fact that she had mentioned something in Article 14 last year that was not put in the minutes. Minutes were approved after amended to read: In 1986, the N.H. Supreme Court, passed down a ruling, that private property, could not be sold or assumed by town tax lien, until the tax lien equaled the value of the property.
Motion passed as amended.

ARTICLE THREE: Motion was made by Thomas Esslinger and seconded by Ralph Balla to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $507,000(Five Hundred and Seven Thousand Dollars) for the construction of an addition to and renovation of the Acworth Town Hall; $434,000(Four Hundred Thirty Four Thousand Dollars) of sum to be raised through the issuance of bonds or notes under and in

compliance with the Municipal Finance Act, RSA 33:1 etseq., as amended; to authorize the Selectmen to apply for, obtain and accept federal, state or other aid, if any, which may be available for said project and to comply with all laws applicable to said project; to authorize the Selectmen to issue, negotiate, sell and deliver said bonds and notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon and the maturity and other terms thereof; and to authorize the Selectmen to take any other action or to pass any other vote relative thereto. And furthermore to authorize the balance of $73,000.00(Seventy-Three Thousand Dollars) to be transferred from the December 31st undesignated Fund Balance (surplus) for this purpose. And furthermore to authorize the Town Offices Committee to finalize the building design and work with the Selectmen as overseers of the construction.
The Selectmen and the Budget Committee recommend this article. 2/3 ballot vote is required.
Polls must remain open one hour after discussion. Discussion of other business can continue during that time.
Stella Herpel moved to amend and seconded by John Balla the wording of the vote to read: After the word Construction to add: "Construction of the Town Hall addition will reflect an amended design, which eliminates the proposed east-facing gable extension, replacing it with an unbroken roofline and paired windows in regular placement." Discussion continued until 8:55PM at which time the voting started. Discussion of other articles continued at this time and at 10:00PM polls were closed for Article 3 and the votes were counted. We need a 2/3 vote for this to pass.
Count Ballot Vote 78 YES 53 NO 1 BLANK 2/3 vote needed was 88 Motion was defeated.

ARTICLE FOUR: Motion was made by Jack Huber and seconded by Caroline Barth to see if the Town will empower the Selectmen to serve as pound keepers, measurers of wood and fence viewers. Motion passed.

ARTICLE FIVE: Motion was made by Jack Huber and seconded by Rob Vogel to see if the Town will vote to appropriate $20,000.00 as part of the matching grant funds being pursued by the Conservation Commission to purchase the development right on 200 more or less acres of the David Lyle property. If the Conservation Commission's Application regarding this property is not accepted by the grantors by October 1, 2001, the money will not be appropriated by the Town. By Petition. The Selectmen and Budget Committee do not recommend this article. (This Article was tabled until the next meeting at the March 13th, 2001 Town Meeting.) After much deliberation Thomas Esslinger made the motion and Lyman Young seconded to post pone Article 5 indefinitely. Motion passed.

ARTICLE SIX: Motion was made by Linda Christie and seconded by Rob DeValk to see if the Town will vote to authorize the Acworth Planning Board to appoint up to three (3) alternate members to the board as provided by State RSA's 673:6, 673:11 and others. By request of the Planning Board.
Motion Passed.

ARTICLE SEVEN: Motion was made by Evelyn Clowes and seconded by Ed Metsack to see if the Town will vote to instruct the Planning Board to develop a Capital Improvements Program as provided by State RSA's 674:1, 674:5 and others. By request of the Planning Board.
Motion Passed.

ARTICLE EIGHT: Motion made by Jack Huber and seconded by Ralph Balla to see if the Town will vote to recind the provisions of the Vote of ARTICLE TEN as adopted by the Town of Acworth on March 13th, 2001 which reads as follows: "To see if the Town will vote to deposit 100% of the revenue collected pursuant to RSA 79-A (the land use change tax) in the Conservation Fund in accordance with RSA 36-A:5 III as authorized by RSA-70A:25II." By Petition. The Selectmen and the Budget Committee recommend this article. After discussion Peter Wotowicz made an amendment to the motion which read " to take out the word recind and take out 100% after will vote to deposit and insert "with an annual cap of $2000.00. Voted on amendment Yes – 80 No – 37. Now we will vote on ARTICLE EIGHT as amended which

reads as follows: To see if the Town will vote to amend the provisions of the Vote of ARTICLE TEN as adopted by the Town of Acworth on March 13th, 2001 which reads as follows: "To see if the Town will vote to deposit revenue collected with an annual cap of $2000.00 pursuant to RSA 79-A(the land use change tax) in the Conservation Fund in accordance with RSA 36-A:5 III as authorized by RSA-70A:25II. By Petition. It was asked for a ballot vote. Ballot Vote Yes 97 No 18

ARTICLE NINE: Motion was made by Ralph Balla and seconded by Caroline Barth to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $15,000 (Fifteen Thousand Dollars) to be placed in the existing Capital Reserve Fund (created in 2000) for the purchase of Highway Equipment.
The Selectmen and the Budget Committee recommend this Article. Motion Passed.

ARTICLE TEN: Motion was made by Craig Lawler and seconded by George Collins to see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $25,000 (Twenty Five Thousand Dollars) to be placed in the existing Capital Reserve Fund (created in 2001) for the future revaluation of the Town.
The Selectmen and the Budget Committee recommend this Article. Motion Passed.

ARTICLE ELEVEN: Motion was made by Ed Metsack and seconded by Bill Symonds to see if the Town will vote to authorize the establishment of a capital reserve fund (Pursuant to RSA Chapter 35) for the future Town Dump closure and to raise an appropriate the sum of $25,000.00 (Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars) to be placed in this fund and appoint the Selectmen as agents to expend from the fund.
The Selectmen and the Budget Committee recommend this Article. Motion Passed.

ARTICLE TWELVE: Motion was Rob DeValk and seconded by John W. Balla to see if the Town will vote to allow the use of road salt and/or comparable materials on Town Highways as necessary and futhermore to raise and appropriate $3,000.00 (Three Thousand Dollars) for the building and/or equipment necessary to accomplish this purpose. The Selectmen and the Budget Committee recommend this Article. Motion was Defeated.

ARTICLE THIRTEEN: Motion was made by Ralph Balla and seconded by Ed Metsack to see if the Town will authorize the Selectmen to borrow money in anticipation of taxes. Motion Passed.

ARTICLE FOURTEEN: As Article 3 did not pass we will skip over this article.

ARTICLE FIFTEEN: Motion was made by Rob DeValk and seconded by Sam Stephens to see if the Town will vote to authorize $27,000 (Twenty-Seven Thousand Dollars) to be transferred from the December 31st undesignated Fund Balance (surplus) for the construction of a parking lot for the Town Hall (also to be used by the church), said lot to be located on property belonging to the town and/or the church.Linda Christie made a motion and Diantha Schierloh seconded to pass over since we did not pass Article 3. The amendment passed as was presented.

ARTICLE SIXTEEN: Motion was made by Ralph Balla and seconded by Jack Huber to see if the Town will vote to raise sums of money as may become necessary to defray town charges for the ensuing year and make appropriations of the same as recommended in the Budget by the Budget Committee.
Tom Esslinger made an amendment to the Article and Lyman Young seconded to increase budget by 35,000 (Thirty Five Thousand Dollars) for Architech fees and Engineer Drawings with the bidding process to proceed with Town Hall Addition. Motion was defeated.

Lyman Young made an amendment to the Article and Rob DeValk seconded to add $25,000 (Twenty Five Thousand Dollars) to be used for Town Hall renovations. Motion was defeated.
John Tuthill made an amendment and June Blake seconded "To see if the Town will vote to authorize $25,000 (Twenty Five Thousand Dollars) for the purpose of the Town Hall repairs to be transferred from the Dec 31st undesignated Fund Balance (Surplus). Motion Passed. The Budget will now read: $535,950.00.

ARTICLE SEVENTEEN: John DeMars got up and spoke to the people about Milfoil Issues that they are having over on Crescent Lake.

Sam Stephens got up and Thanked Kathi Bradt for getting the Grant of $61,000.00 for the Historical Society to buy the Village Store.

John Balla stood up and asked for a sense of the meeting which way to go on the Town Hall.

Evelyn Clowes made a motion and Ralph Balla seconded "To reconsider Article 3 & Article 14 provided in RSA 33:8-a on a date to be set by the Selectmen and Town Offices Committee. A hand count was taken on this motion. YES 46 NO 35 Motion Passed.

Meeting recessed at 11:30PM to count votes of School Ballots first and then Town Ballots.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:00AM to be reconvened when the Selectmen set a date for the next meeting.

Respectfully submitted

Brenda Longley
Town Clerk of Acworth

Town Meeting
May 7, 2002

To the inhabitants of the Town of Acworth, NH in the County of Sullivan, in said state, qualified to vote in Town affairs: You are hereby notified to bring your votes to the Town Hall on Tuesday, the 7th day of May next at 7:00 of the clock in the evening to act upon the following which were voted to be reconsidered at the March 12th, 2002 Town Meeting.

Kenneth Grant called the reconvened meeting back to order and read the warrant for Articles 3 & 14 to be reconsidered.

Tom Esslinger made a motion and Ralph Balla seconded to discuss Article 14 before Article 3.

Tom Mathauser and Dianthia Schierloh both state that they wished to be recorded as stating that this meeting was being done illegally.

After which the Chair ruled that we could vote on Article 14.

Tom Mathauser made a motion to overrule the moderator. We had a voice vote and the motion was defeated to discuss Article 14 first.

Article 3: Tom Mathauser called the question Paul Turcotte Seconded. We have a hand vote Yes 77 No 42

After a lot of discussion the voting on Article 3 started at 7:57PM and the voting on the same article closed at 9:05PM to count the ballots.

Yes 40 No 98

The motion was defeated.

We had no discussion on Article 14 as Article 3 did not pass.

Tom Mathauser made a motion to adjourn and Ralph Balla seconded. Voice Vote – Motion passed

Meeting was adjourned at 9:20PM.

Respectfully submitted

Brenda Longley
Town Clerk

With no motion passing the budget remains the same as the first meeting at $535,950.00

TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT
ACWORTH, NEW HAMPSHIRE
YEAR ENDING 12-31-2002

DEBITS			Prior Levy Years	
Uncollected Taxes	Levy			
Beg. of Year	2002	2001	2000	1999
Property Taxes		129,661.75		-3.81
Yield Taxes		4,424.00		
Interest		-29.85		3.81
Taxes Committed				
This Year				
Property Taxes	1,235,107.00	-105.00		
Land Use Change	1,230.00			
Yield Taxes	42,906.23			
Gravel Tax	46.24			
Overpayment				
Property Taxes	456.18	3,205.02		
Yield Taxes	6,744.46			
Collect Int. - Late Taxes	1,431.80	6,702.30		21.30
Penalties - Other TAxes	75.00	156.23		
Costs Before Lien		1,168.00		
TOTAL DEBITS	1,293,996.91	145,182.45		21.30
CREDITS				
Remitted to Treasurer				
Property Taxes	1,121,540.47	85,422.98		
Land Use Change	6,100.00			
Yield Taxes	45,830.65	2,139.00		
Gravel Tax	46.24			
Interest	1,431.80	3,520.78		21.30
Penalties-Other Taxes		156.23		
Conversion to Lien		48,978.44		
Abatements Made				
Property Taxes	3,721.00	3,534.02		
Yield Taxes	3,820.04	1,431.00		
Uncollected Taxes				
Property Taxes	110,301.71			-3.81
Land Use Change	1,130.00			
Penalties - Other Taxes	75.00			
TOTAL CREDITS	**1,293,996.91**	**145,182.45**		**21.30**

*** ON LEVIES OF ***

DEBITS	Last Year's 2001	2000	Prior Levies 1999	1998
Unredeemed Liens - Beg. of Year		25,186.42	9,167.07	
Liens Executed During Year	48,978.44			
Interest & Costs	3,037.62	1,977.95	2,386.00	
TOTAL DEBITS	**52,016.06**	**27,164.37**	**11,553.07**	
CREDITS				
Remitted to Treasurer				
Redemptions	10,176.77	13,511.39	9,167.07	
Interest & Costs	2,917.67	1,977.95	2,386.00	
Unredeemed Lien Bal.	38,921.62	11,675.03		
TOTAL CREDITS	**52,061.06**	**27,164.37**	**11,553.07**	

TREASURER'S REPORT

Detailed Statement of Expenditures for 2002

	Jan - Dec 02	
Executive expenses		
Wages-town officers	12,100.00	
Payroll taxes-town officers	925.65	
Total Executive expenses		13,025.65
Elections		
Ballots	88.00	
Public notices	467.96	
Stipends-election officials	2,182.00	
Total Elections		2,737.96
Revaluation of property		2,956.72
Legal expenses		6,576.75
Planning and zoning		
Manuals, ballots	139.00	
Miscellaneous expenses	159.42	
Public notices	94.72	
Total Planning and zoning		393.14
Town hall		
Wages - cleaning	1,095.00	
Payroll taxes-cleaning	83.80	
Cleaning, shoveling	90.00	
Electricity	552.47	
Flag duty	450.00	
Fuel oil	898.00	
Mowing	1,020.00	
Repairs	206.90	
Supplies	250.01	
Telephone	132.92	
Total Town hall		4,779.10
Cemeteries		
Wages - cemeteries	1,449.00	
Payroll taxes-cemeteries	110.85	
Cemetery appropriation paid	510.00	
Cemetery stone restoration	10,000.00	
Total Cemeteries		12,069.85
Insurance		
Property and liability	3,796.39	
Road agent disabliity	293.30	
Unemployment comp	126.03	
Workmens comp	2,971.12	
Total Insurance		7,186.84

TREASURER'S REPORT

Detailed Statement of Expenditures for 2002

	Jan - Dec 02	
Town office expenses		
Wages-admin. assist.	6,200.00	
Wages-office help	432.00	
Payroll taxes-town office	507.35	
Bank service charges	153.70	
Computer consultants	1,500.00	
Computer and printer supplies	1,376.31	
Computer software and support	1,356.80	
Deed office recording fees	171.99	
Miscellaneous	1,138.43	
Office supplies	437.79	
Outside services	95.20	
Postage	1,330.51	
Public notices	618.40	
Services of forester	1,030.00	
Telephone	1,100.81	
Town reports	1,648.00	
UVLSRPC annual dues	803.00	
Total Town office expenses		19,900.29
Police		
Wages-police	12,300.00	
Payroll taxes-police	940.97	
Cruiser maintenance	3,626.84	
Dispatch	2,600.00	
Gas	1,247.32	
Miscellaneous	139.00	
Office space rent	875.00	
Publications	444.79	
Radio	174.96	
Supplies	2,642.65	
Telephone	590.57	
Total Police		25,582.10
Fire		
Acworth VF&R	22,000.00	
Wages-forest fires	63.56	
Payroll taxes-forest fires	4.90	
Forest fires other costs	34.00	
Total Fire		22,102.46
Emergency management		
Wages-911 mapping	145.00	
Payroll taxes-911 mapping	11.09	
Total Emergency management		156.09

TREASURER'S REPORT

Detailed Statement of Expenditures for 2002

	Jan - Dec 02	
Highway maintenance		
Wages-highway	83,596.50	
Payroll taxes-highway	6,399.40	
Health insurance	16,141.25	
Culverts	1,087.21	
Emergency plowing	120.00	
Materials-gravel and shurpak	13,060.71	
Miscellaneous	1,751.80	
Mower and chipper rental	3,795.00	
Salt	5,300.05	
Sand screening and piling	10,000.00	
Total Highway maintenance		141,251.92
Street lighting		2,004.12
Highway - general expenses		
Diesel fuel	7,519.72	
Electricity	955.67	
Gas	564.74	
Heating oil	1,453.13	
Miscellaneous	1,928.09	
Repairs, parts	17,793.78	
Supplies	2,558.62	
Telephone	580.16	
New equipment	13,936.95	
Total Highway - general expenses		47,290.86
Solid waste		
Wages-dump attendent	6,972.00	
Payroll taxes-dump attendant	533.38	
Electricity	247.08	
Gobin	8,667.80	
Miscellaneous supplies	1,862.93	
NH/VT SWP current year	27,141.12	
NH/VT SWP settlement pymt	4,000.00	
Telephone	240.00	
Waste management (WM)	10,857.79	
Total Solid waste		60,522.10
Animal control		
Wages-animal control	1,183.50	
Payroll taxes-animal control	90.55	
Dog tags	487.50	
State fees	125.00	
Total Animal control		1,886.55
Health and other agencies		2,828.50
Welfare		120.00

TREASURER'S REPORT

Detailed Statement of Expenditures for 2002

	Jan - Dec 02	
Recreation		
Electricity	256.91	
Miscellaneous expense	406.14	
Mowing	220.00	
Portable toilet	100.00	
Supplies	455.35	
Trout stocking	250.00	
Total Recreation		1,688.40
Library		
Wages-library	12,380.00	
Payroll taxes-library	940.39	
Library appropriation paid	5,279.61	
Total Library		18,600.00
Memorial day expenses		150.00
Conservation commission		
CC association dues	175.00	
Crescent Lake testing	144.67	
Miscellaneous expense	97.00	
CC appropriation paid	183.33	
Total Conservation commission		600.00
Town hall renovations		24,903.00
Road projects and paving		46,824.06
Conservation commission fund		2,000.00
Forest maintenance fund		11,423.31
Capital reserve - dump closure		25,000.00
Capital reserve - highway equip		15,000.00
Capital reserve - revaluation		25,000.00
Sullivan County		188,523.00
FM Regional School District		866,516.94
Tax abatements refunded		3,466.02
Tax overpayments refunded		4,022.21
Tax liens by town		48,289.09
Total Expense		1,655,377.03

TREASURER'S REPORT

Comparative statement of appropriations and expenditures for 2002

Appropriation title	Approp. amount	Expend. amount	Unexpended	Overdraft	
Town officers' salaries	$ 12,500.00	$ 13,025.65	$ -	$ 525.65	
Elections and registration	2,500.00	2,737.96		237.96	*
Payroll tax expenses	10,500.00	-	10,500.00		
Revaluation of property	2,500.00	2,956.72		456.72	
Legal expenses	4,000.00	6,576.75		2,576.75	
Planning and zoning	1,000.00	393.14	606.86		
Town hall expenses	5,000.00	4,779.10	220.90		
Cemeteries	3,000.00	12,069.85		9,069.85	*
Insurance	10,000.00	7,186.84	2,813.16		
Town office expense	23,700.00	19,900.29	3,799.71		*
Police	23,100.00	25,582.10		2,482.10	
Ambulance	2,700.00	-	2,700.00		
Fire	22,000.00	22,102.46		102.46	
Emergency management	1,000.00	156.09	843.91		
Highway maintenance	140,000.00	141,251.92		1,251.92	
Street lighting	2,000.00	2,004.12		4.12	
Highway equip, parts, fuel	30,000.00	47,290.86		17,290.86	
Solid waste disposal	67,000.00	60,522.10	6,477.90		
Animal control	1,000.00	1,886.55		886.55	
Health and other agencies	8,000.00	2,828.50	5,171.50		
Welfare	2,500.00	120.00	2,380.00		
Parks and recreation	1,600.00	1,688.40		88.40	
Library operations	18,600.00	18,600.00			
Memorial day expenses	150.00	150.00			
Conservation commission	600.00	600.00			
Interest expense	1,000.00	-	1,000.00		
Road projects and paving	50,000.00	46,824.06	3,175.94		
Town hall renovations	25,000.00	24,903.00	97.00		
Cap. res. - dump closure	25,000.00	25,000.00			
Cap. res. - highway equip.	15,000.00	15,000.00			
Cap. res. - revaluation	25,000.00	25,000.00			
TOTALS	$ 535,950.00	$ 531,136.46	$ 39,786.88	$ 34,973.34	

*See statement of revenues for reimbursed amounts

TREASURER'S REPORT
Detailed Statement of Revenues for 2002

From tax collector	
Property taxes current year	$ 1,117,125.83
Property taxes prior year	125,652.30
Property tax redemptions	32,432.61
Property tax overpayments	4,022.21
Land use change tax	6,100.00
Yield taxes current year	36,361.77
Yield taxes prior years	2,139.00
Excavation tax	46.24
Interest and costs late property tax	16,186.79
Interest and costs late LUC tax	10.26
	1,340,077.01
From town clerk	
Motor vehicle permit fees	95,722.90
Dog licenses and penalties	743.00
Filing fees	4.00
	96,469.90
From State of New Hampshire	
Shared revenue block grant	9,680.24
Meals and room distribution	24,000.23
Highway block grant	109,110.10
Forest land reimbursement	395.65
	143,186.22
From miscellaneous sources	
Transfer station fees	3,356.00
Recycling proceeds	253.02
Interest income on deposits	8,294.23
Civil forfeitures	279.50
Gove lot timber sales	11,423.31
Reimbursement from cemetery association	10,909.00
Reimbursement from FMRSD for elections	536.00
Reimbursement from forest maintenance funds	8,202.50
Rental of town property	805.00
Sale of histories and maps	302.00
Miscellaneous fees	721.53
	45,082.09
Total revenues	$ 1,624,815.22

TREASURER'S REPORT

Summary of accounts held by treasurer for 2002

General checking account

Beginning balance 1/1/02	$	975.18
Transfers from money market		1,664,499.54
Expenditures per treasurer's report		(1,655,377.03)
Various refunds reported net of expense account		(4,868.74)
Performance bonds refunded		(4,000.00)
MMA bank charges included in above		30.00
Ending balance 12/31/02	$	1,258.95

General money market account

Beginning balance 1/1/02	$	447,945.86
Revenues per treasurer's report		1,624,815.22
Refundable performance bonds		6,000.00
Various refunds reported net of expense account		4,868.74
Bank charges		(30.00)
Transfers to general checking		(1,664,499.54)
Ending balance 12/31/02	$	419,100.28

Conservation commission savings account

Beginning balance 1/1/02	$	3,494.53
LUC tax proceeds		2,000.00
Balance of appropriation		183.33
Interest income		56.55
Ending balance 12/31/02	$	5,734.41

Forest maintenance savings account

Beginning balance 1/1/02	$	2,046.14
Timber sale proceeds		11,423.31
Interest income		14.96
Gove lot purchase (final payment)		(7,000.00)
Forester expenses		(1,030.00)
Miscellaneous expenses		(172.50)
Ending balance 12/31/02	$	5,281.91

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS	$95,722.90
DOG LICENSES	821.00
- TOWN CLERK'S FEES	- 78.00
TOTAL DOGS	743.00
FILING FEES	4.00
TOTAL TO TREASURER	$96,469.90

SCHEDULE OF TOWN PROPERTY

Town Hall and Land	$109,000.00	
Contents	6,000.00	
Library and Land	113,000.00	
Contents	30,000.00	
Police Dept. Equipment	5,000.00	
Town Garage and Land	96,300.00	
Equipment	267,000.00	
Materials, Supplies	6,000.00	
Grange Hall and Land	56,000.00	
Town Common	28,000.00	
Sand Pit, Transfer Station	30,800.00	
TOTAL		$747,100.00

LANDS ACQUIRED THROUGH TAX COLLECTOR'S DEEDS

Roberts Lot 280B	14,800.00	
R. Howard Estate Lot 231A	17,600.00	
Ball Lot 466	6,900.00	
Buss Lot 357	8,300.00	
Callum Lot 485	2,000.00	
Champney Lot 260	7,900.00	
Crescent Lake Lot 101B	7,900.00	
Farnsworth Lot 279A	41,300.00	
Gove Lots – 207, 207A, 208, 208A	332,700.00	
Hurd Lots – Lots 55C, 59B	33,400.00	
Jennison Lots 623	28,100.00	
Morris Lot 871	6,300.00	
Nelson Lot 618A	11,400.00	
Onofrio Lot 140A	18,100.00	
Prouty Lot 649	7,100.00	
Shaw Lot 227A	9,900.00	
Turner Lot 68A	13,100.00	
TOTAL		566,800.00

LANDS ACQUIRED THROUGH GIFT OR PURCHASE

Acworth Wetlands Lot 253	3,600.00	
Peirera Wetlands Lots 263A, 263C	10,500.00	
Diggert Lot 255	1,900.00	
Pierce Brook Woodlot Lot 720	8,700.00	
Ward Lot 422A	10,100.00	
Mill Pond Acre and Mica Shed	19,300.00	
Five Points School Hse Lot 464	7,000.00	
Prince Lot 515A	1,600.00	
Fournier Lot 209	21,000.00	
TOTAL		83,700.00

DEPT. OF REVENUE ADMINISTRATION
2002 TAX RATE CALCULATION
TOWN OF ACWORTH

TOWN				
Gross Appropriations	535,950			
Less: Revenues	314,377			
Less: Shared Revenues	4,100			
Add: Overlay	5,087			
War Service Credits	4,025			
Net Town Appropriation		226,585		
Special Adjustment		-0-		
Approved Town Tax Effort			226,585	
				Town Rate
				4.82
SCHOOL PORTION				
Regional School Apportionment		1,272,784		
Less: Adequate Education Grant		(454,885)		
State Education Taxes		(265,949)		
Approved School Tax Effort			551,950	
				Local School Rate
				11.73
STATE EDUCATION TAXES				
Equalized Valuation		$5.80		
			265,949	
				State School Rate
				5.83
COUNTY PORTION				
Due to County		188,523		
Less: Shared Revenues		(1,046)		
Approved County Tax Effort			187,477	**County Rate**
				3.98
Total Property Taxes Assessed			1,231,961	**Total Rate**
Less: War Service Credits			(4,025)	**26.36**
Total Property Tax Commitment			1,227,936	

PROOF OF RATE

	Net Assessed Valuation	Tax Rate	Assessment
State Education Tax	45,631,578	5.83	265,949
All Other Taxes	47,049,645	20.53	966,012
			1,231,961

SELECTMEN'S REPORT
2002

It is difficult to characterize 2002 in a single phrase or even paragraph, but it's safe to say that it had a little of everything – the defeat of the Town Hall rehabilitation project, personnel turnover in the Highway Department, participation in a petition to the Superior Court regarding the school funding apportionment formula, a substantial increase in taxable property, getting the town finances on computer, the establishment of a new town committee, a commitment to the first step of dump closure, installation of a handicapped ramp for the Town Hall, and even elimination of the men's room at the Town Hall to provide space for the Tax Collector.

The upcoming year will see the continued involvement by the selectmen in a number of the items listed above, plus some new ones:

1. Office of Selectmen Function. The illness of longtime and capable servant of the town, Earl Luther, forced the selectmen to examine the town's accounting and bill paying methods. Our conclusion was that we needed to update our methods to make the system more efficient and responsive. With the help of Scott Luther-Houghton, we were able to start the updating process by getting the town finances on computer. As a result, all checks are now computer generated, and we are able to get updated financial records when needed. Educating those involved with town finances as well as integrating the system into the daily activities of the town will continue in '03, along with a general upgrading of administrative services.
2. Dump Closure. Recently the selectmen entered into an agreement with the firm of Underwood Engineers of Portsmouth for dump closure design. We expect the design to begin after weather permits appropriate testing and inspection of the site. If the design progresses as expected, it is likely that dump closure will be considered at the '04 Town Meeting.
3. Town Hall Rehabilitation and Office Expansion. The rehabilitation work done in '02, was a small step toward upgrading and rehabilitating our Town Hall, but did little to relieve the need for additional office space. The fact that nothing is being proposed on the '03 warrant to correct these problems does not reflect a change in the town's needs.
4. Cemetery Trustees. Recognition of the need for oversight of the maintenance and planning for cemetery needs resulted in the establishment of the Cemetery Trustee committee. This function was also needed to oversee the utilization of cemetery trust fund earnings. Note: Please support the warrant article that would encourage a more flexible use of perpetual care earnings.
5. Purchase of a New Loader/Backhoe. The selectmen are recommending the purchase of a new loader/backhoe this year while the old one still has some trade-in value. The town currently has $45,000 in a capital reserve fund for this purpose. We recommend raising the remainder of the purchase price, about $25,000, through taxes.
6. School Funding Petition. Along with the towns of Langdon, and Alstead, we have petitioned the Sullivan County Superior Court to find the school district taxation apportionment formula illegal. In addition to its questionable legality, the formula is extremely complex, and results in both the operating and capital expenses of each town being "unfunded mandates", ie., our education bill will be decided by those who don't help pay it. We expect a decision by the court during the second quarter of '03.
7. Paving Cold Pond Road. The selectmen are proposing the establishment and initial funding of a capital reserve fund for the purpose of paving Cold Pond Road. As a major roadway for traveling into and from town, as well as the connecting route to a major area of town, we feel that it should be paved.

8. Election of the Road Agent. The selectmen do not support such a proposal. If elected, the Road Agent would not be answerable to the selectmen and could not be removed for poor performance. Additionally, we do not feel that the Road Agent position should be limited only to citizens of Acworth. We should have the best candidate available, regardless where domiciled.
9. Conservation Trusts for Town Lands. The selectmen feel that the town should control town land. The selectmen do not support the creation of a conservation trust for town lands.

We hope that you will attend the town meeting this year and express your views on the various topics to be discussed.

Respectfully submitted,
Board of Selectmen

ACWORTH RECREATION COMMITTEE

This year found the recreation committee another busy year. The fishing derby was fun for all that came as always. We had a smaller turnout for baseball this year, but a huge turnout for soccer, which is one of our biggest expenses.

We purchased small soccer goals and made the large ones ourselves.

We received approximately $500.00 in donations and would like to thank everybody who donated money, their time, animals, and homes for all our functions throughout the year.

Thank You

Tammy Gendron

PLANNING BOARD
2002 REPORT

The planning board scheduled 12 meetings during 2002. There were continuing efforts to update town ordinances and regulations and to improve communications with other town boards and committees. No major subdivisions were submitted or acted upon but there were numerous minor subdivisions considered.

Revision of Acworth's Subdivision Regulations has continued but there is still much work to do. The Telecommunications Facilities Ordinance was finished and is being submitted to the town meeting for approval. Acworth's Non-residential Site Review Regulations have been modified and approved by the Planning Board. The PB has asked the selectmen to modify the building permit application to allow distinguishing between residential and non-residential applications. The regulations require submission of non-residential applications to the PB for review, a hearing and decision on how it meets the objectives of the ordinance.

The town granted the PB the ability to appoint 3 alternate members to the board. As yet, no appointments have been made. We are seeking applicants.

The Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission (UVSRPC), of which Acworth is a member and has two appointed commissioners, has continued to assist us with advise and assistance. They reviewed our subdivision regulations and have made suggestions for their improvement. They are also assisting us in completing a revised Acworth Master Plan as required by the state. If funding is available UVSPPC will help us develop a new set of maps and updated census information for inclusion in the Master Plan.

A PB subcommittee has been working on the revision of the Master Plan. If all goes well, a completely revised plan Master will be approved by the PB and made available for distribution in the Fall of 2003. The Master Plan is required for the guidance of the Planning Board in developing and maintaining zoning ordinances and subdivision regulations. It also is a way for the citizens of Acworth to express their feeling and ideas about how Acworth should plan for the future.

A number of issues confront the PB. Among those are the planned establishment of a Quarry at Osgood Ledge, a need the clarify the use of class 6 roads, the revision of Zoning Regulations to deal with road frontage, multiple dwellings on one site, and the development of a Capital Improvements Program.

Respectfully submitted,
Rich Bishop, PB Chairman
John Balla, Vice-chairman and Selectman
Bill Symonds, Secretary
Bruce Bascom
Brenda Longley
Pam McWethy
Steve Davis

ACWORTH POLICE DEPARTMENT
2002 TOWN REPORT

2002 saw the department answering 1588 calls. This was down from 2001. The department received over 258 incoming phone calls, made over 1006 out going telephone calls, and received over 376 pages for the year 2002. The department recovered $250.00 in dog fines, $29.50 in civil fees, and $156.00 in bad checks for the town totaling $435.50. Over 2,245 hours were put into the department for 2002.

I am still working on a contract for a cell phone for the cruiser. The prices are too high at this time. The new astro radio will be programed for digital service this year. We will still maintain an analog program for backup in the event the new digital system goes down. The lap top computer will be installed in the cruiser and I hope to have it in service for 2003 niber reporting. The cruiser will go into the shop in February for a complete under carriage inspection of the brakes, rotors, drums, springs, shocks, struts, and steering. Anything defective will be replaced.

The new dispatch system with the Charlestown Police Department appears to be working out well. There were a few bugs that needed to be worked out at first, but everything seems to be moving along quite well at the time of this writing. The State is in the process of preparing the maps and assigning numbers for the 911 system. Hopefully this will go into effect this summer. This will make finding a residence much easier for the emergency responder.

I would like to thank all the residents for their help and support during the past year and look forward to working with you in the coming year.

There were several incidents this past year where persons waited before calling the police after hearing noises etc. Please if you hear anything out of the ordinary do not hesitate to contact the Police Department. Arriving several hours after the crime has been committed, the department looses a lot of the evidence. I would rather have you call, and have an officer show up and find nothing wrong than to arrive hours late and not be able to gather any evidence or prints.

EMERGENCY DIAL - 911 ACWORTH DISPATCH - 542-7040

David A. Webber,
Chief

ACWORTH VOLUNTEER FIRE AND RESCUE CO., INC. 2002 REPORT

Company responses for the year were: Medical Emergency - 29; Emergency Assistance - 9; Motor Vehicle Accident - 9: Mutual Aid Assistance - 7; Fire Emergency - 2; Forest Fire Assistance - 2; False Alarm - 2; Total Responses - 60.

This year the responses continued the pattern of increase, with the total more than 258 greater than last year. As before, we continue our efforts to provide the services needed as well as is possible within the framework of our resources.

Drill details have increased with the implementation of a regular schedule of drills held on 2nd and 4th Sundays each month. Under the direction of training officer Joseph Holmes, members have had the opportunity to participate with "hands on" training in situations such as vehicle extrication, effective use of pumps and hoses, and external fire fighting techniques. In September a joint drill involving a mutual aid exercise was conducted by the Company in conjunction with surrounding departments.

Additional storage area has been created. Its purpose is to provide space for tools and equipment which are for seasonal use as well as those being serviced or repaired. By clearing the area at the rear of the main bays, we obtain additional drill or meeting space. We were fortunate to acquire a quantity of used 4 inch hose through the generosity of other departments. Donated funds enabled the purchase of fittings needed to adapt the hose to our equipment. We have tested and placed in service 1200 feet of this hose on our M-1 pumper.

At this writing, we have accepted, with regret, the resignation of June Blake as Assistant Chief. June has served the Company long and well as an EMT in addition to her duties as officer. It is also with regret that we note the passing of John David Lyle, a Company member since 1969.

We want to thank those who have so generously contributed to the company during this year. As mentioned, we strive to do as well as possible with our resources, and your efforts provide us with both moral and financial support. Most especially, we wish to thank those wonderful women of Acworth who made possible the calendar project for the benefit of the Village Store and the Company. Please now your efforts are much appreciated.

In our request for funding for 2003, we are asking for an increase of $10,000 annually for the next 5 years. Both our pumper and tanker are 30 years old, and we believe it prudent to replace them at this time. It is our intent to purchase a combination pumper/tanker in order to continue to be able to assist in mutual aid responses with tanker capacity while maintaining Class A pumping ability. A review of the market indicates that a unit meeting these requirements will very probably cost in the vicinity of $150,000. Any cost over the amount requested will be met by the Company from funds raised by other means. We hope the Town will look favorably at our request and thereby enable us to proceed with this worthwhile project.

Meetings are held 2nd Thursday of the month at the fire station. The station is manned each Sunday around 10:00 am for radio check, and drills are held 2nd and 4th Sundays at 10:00 am. Prospective members are welcome to attend any of these activities.

Respectfully submitted,
Acworth Volunteer Fire & Rescue

ROAD AGENT
2002 REPORT

Luckily, Mother Nature eased into the area this past year and roads held up well without much mud. In spite of crew changes, we managed to grade all the roads at least once and sometimes twice.

Gravel was applied to H. Putnam Road, Grove Road, Cold Pond Road, Henio Road, Parson's Road, Clarks Road, Black North Road, Quaker City side, and Grout Hill Road. Ditching and paving was done on Beryl Mt. Road as well as around the school and we hope to complete it next year. All the roads on the main line were mowed and brush was cut along East Acworth, Beryl Mt. Road, and Grout Hill road.

Crew changes this year saw John Lyman leave us. I hated to see him go as he was a good worker. Wayne Ring returned but only stayed a short time. Matt Balla was hired but quit after only a few weeks. Presently we have hired Prescott Trafton and he is working out well. Bob Phinney is the third crew member and has been with us for some time.

This coming year we will have to consider replacing the backhoe loader as it has over 8,000 hours on it and has been breaking down more and more, affecting the completion of necessary work. Funds have been set aside for equipment replacement and I would recommend that this is the time to update this piece of equipment while it still has trade in value.

I would like to thank residents for their continued cooperation and patience with snow removal and road repairs through the year. All in all, it has been a productive year along our Acworth roadways.

Don Porter,
Road Agent

LIBRARY REPORT
2002

In December 2002, after years of planning and budgeting, the new NHU-PAC (New Hampshire Union Public Automated Catalog) went on-line. This has speeded up the time needed for cataloging and sending records of our holdings to the New Hampshire State Library and has streamlined the interlibrary loan process. Often it is less than a week from a request made to book in patron's hand. In 2002, we filled 37 requests from other libraries for materials in our collection and we had 50 requests from our patrons for interlibrary loans filled by other libraries.

In 2002 we had 1,748 patron visits in which 3083 books, videos, audios and magazines were borrowed and we had 37 visits by Acworth School children. We added 77 items that were gifts and 305 items were purchased bringing the total number of items in the collection to 7,426. We had two special programs for our youngsters and 36 story times. Two open houses, one in July and one in December, were held to welcome Acworth residents and acquaint them with what their library has to offer.

We again participated in the statewide summer reading program. We kicked off our story hours with a fascinating program on New Hampshire and Vermont butterflies presented by Jerry Schneider of Hardwick, VT. A December program on books and the joy of reading was held at the Acworth School. This came to us as part of the CLiF grant received in August and, also as part of the grant, we have been awarded a children's book author/illustrator visit scheduled for the spring.

Inventory of the library collection is winding down. Our aim is to have it complete and an accurate count of the collection before the report to the New Hampshire State Library is due on March 3rd. As one project wraps up another begins. The photographs in the collection are in the process of being sorted and cataloged with an eye to digitizing them and making them available to our patrons. This will be a giant step forward in the conservation of an extremely valuable historic resource.

2003 will be a busy year. The computers from the Gates Foundation grant should be here and up and running by the end of March. I hope you will all stop by the library and get "connected".

Respectfully submitted,
Holly K. Shaw
Library Administrator

ACWORTH SILSBY LIBRARY
TRUSTEES REPORT 2002

This year has brought improvement to the library in several areas. Our Librarian, Holly Shaw, has worked with Assistant Librarian Barbara Clark and much appreciated volunteer. Janet Albright and Ella Brown, to continue inventorying the entire collection. This is a necessary if unexciting task, to keep the library collection manageable and accessible, and has been long overdue. The cost of this effort has been supported in part by funds from the Jeffery Trust.

Part of Holly's work is to update library resources. This year, with the help of Ann Hoey of the NH State Library, she reviewed all of the children's books, and then obtained a grant from the Childrens' Literacy Foundation (CliF) of Hanover, which provided $1,300 of children's books, chosen by Holly. The presentation of these books was made official at a reading and storytelling event at the Acworth Primary School.

In spring of 2003 the Library will provide first class access to the Internet. Holly applied for a grant from the Gates Foundation for computer equipment and software for internet connection and other use by library users. Although initially rejected, her diligence resulted in a grant of $8,200 to be used for this purpose. In January Holly attends a training session by the Gates Foundation.

We continued to have a very successful book sale on Old Home Day. Please note for next year we encourage donations of books that can be sold for the Library.

Nancy Miller briefly served as a Trustee, and is now succeeded by Melinda Loiselle, who brings with her extensive computer knowledge.

The Friends of the Library have been very helpful with donations for rugs and repointing the stone front steps. In December, the Friends discovered diaries of Millie Moody Marsh or sale on an eBay auction. They collected donations to purchase these remarkable diaries, and donated them to the Library, where they are currently on display.

In the Fall of 2002, the Library has begun, in cooperation with the Historical Society, a major effort to catalog, preserve and digitize the Library's wonderful collection of old photographs. Holly has obtained guidance from professional archivists in the state, to know best how to do this. The first results of this effort are shown in the South Acworth Store, pictures scanned and printed by Gail Wilson. Our intention is to have much of this collection stored on CD, where it can be easily accessible. We would like to ask either the loan or donation of other old pictures from anyone in the community, to be added to this CD collection.

Respectfully submitted,
David McWethy
Trustee

ACWORTH SILSBY LIBRARY FINANCIAL REPORT FOR 2002

BEGINNING BALANCE OPERATING FUNDS		1506.40	
BEGINNING BALANCE SAVINGS FUNDS		12266.66	
BEGINNING BALANCE CD		25000.00	38773.06
TOWN APPROPRIATION			
RECEIVED FROM TREASURER	5279.61		
SALARIES PAID BY TREASURER	12380.00		
SOC SEC PAID BY TREASURER	940.39		18600.00
INCOME FROM TRUST FUNDS	4303.88		
INTEREST ON SAVINGS & CD	1261.93		
BOOK SALES & MISC	808.66		
MISC COPY FEE & SERVICES	76.50		
CRAFT FAIR	240.00		6690.97
MISCELLANEOUS DONATIONS	1812.55		
GRANT	8229.00		10041.55
TOTAL AVAILABLE			74105.58
TOTAL SPENT OPERATING			22138.84
TOTAL SPENT CAPITAL			
BALANCE AVAILABLE			51966.74
ENDING BALANCE OPERATING FUNDS		1881.81	
ENDING BALANCE SAVINGS FUNDS		16906.96	
ENDING BALANCE CD		33177.97	
TOTAL		51966.74	

Report of the Common Trust Fund Investments of the Town of Acworth

	Principle		Income				
Description of Investment	Balance Beginning Year	Balance End Year	Balance Beginning Year	Income During Year	Expended During Year	Balance End Year	Grand Total of Principle & Income at End of Year
Advest - Cemetery Common Trust (87 accounts)	78,618.60	71,418.79	23,439.50	3,851.40	0.00	27,290.90	98,709.69
Advest -R. & C. Jeffrey Mem. Library Fund	75,468.87	72,838.20	0.00	3,553.98	3,553.98	0.00	72,838.20
Advest- F.R.C. Jeffrey Mem. V.N.A. Fund	57,674.99	55,677.83	0.00	2,716.59	0.00	2,716.58	58,394.41
Advest -C. Hislop F.B.O.. Sislby Library	15,583.53	14,620.39	0.00	749.90	749.90	0.00	14,620.39
Advest -R. Mitchell Fund F.B.O. Town of Acworth	5,847.35	5,607.96	0.00	reinvested	0.00	0.00	5,607.96
Advest -R. Mitchell F.B.O.Old Cemetery	5,849.50	5,610.16	0.00	reinvested	0.00	0.00	5,610.16
Advest -R. Mitchell Fund F.B.O. Cemetery Fund	11,776.52	11,298.20	0.00	reinvested	0.00	0.00	11,298.20
Advest -Acworth Mem. Library Fund	6,329.84	6,100.85	0.00	reinvested	0.00	0.00	6,100.85
							$273,179.86

Respectfully submitted,
Alston W. Bassett
Kathi Bratt
Trustees of Trust Funds

Capital Reserve Accounts
Action Taken at Regular Town meeting

Highway Equipment	Year	Location	Amount	Maturity	CD#
Warrant Article #5	2000	Conn. River Bank	$15,023.73	2/7/03	8317177
Warrant Article #7	2001	Conn. River Bank	$15,000.00	12/20/03	8317606
Warrant Article #9	2002	Citizens Bank	$15,000.00	09/01/03	Citizens Bank
Property Revaluation					
Warrant Article #8	2001	Conn. River Bank	$25,000.00	12/20/03	8317614
Warrant Article #10	2002	Citizens Bank	$25,000.00	09/01/03	Citizens Bank
Town Dump Closure					
Warrant Article #11	2002	Citizens Bank	$25,000.00	09/01/03	Citizens Bank

HEALTH OFFICER'S REPORT

This year has been somewhat uneventful. The only things I have been required to do is to take paperwork from the state and post it at the Town Hall.

It's my understanding that most people do not know who the health officer is or what the duties of a health officer are. If you are not sure, most anything relating to health, indirectly or directly would pretty much be covered.

I have not been called once because I have an answering machine and I have never received a message concerning any health matters.

If you need me for any health related matters please call and leave a message on my answering machine at 863-9205. I will return your call as soon as I am able. Please do not hesitate to call.

I have also enclosed a paper that everyone should look at about testing your well. Please take a look and get your well tested.

Sincerely

Donna H. Dutton
Acworth Health Officer

Private Well Users!

Have you had your well tested recently?

Drinking water from private wells in New Hampshire sometimes contains contaminants at levels that can pose health risks. Only a water quality test, by a competent laboratory, can assure that your family is protected.

What types of contaminants might be present in your well?

The following contaminants, some naturally-occurring and others man-made, have been found in private well water in New Hampshire:

Arsenic
Bacteria
Fluoride
Nitrate
Radium
Radon
Sodium
Uranium
Volatile Organic Chemicals (VOCs)

Where can you learn more about this?

For further information, please visit the N.H. Department of Environmental Services' website at **www.des.state.nh.us/wseb**, then select "**fact sheets**," then 2-1.

SOLID WASTE
2002 REPORT

The NH/VT Solid Waste Project reports Acworth sent 330 tons of residential waste to be burned at the Wheelabrator Claremont Company's incinerator in 2002, or about 790 lbs. per person based on an estimated population of 835. This is an increase of about 30 tons from 2001, a ten percent increase.

The NH and VT waste districts' ash landfill in Newport, NH, was capped and closed during 2001-2002. Incinerator ash is currently trucked from Claremont to Shrewsbury, MA, for disposal in a landfill operated by a subsidiary of Wheelabrator's parent company.

Acworth paid just under $110/ton or $35,809 in direct costs for compactor and container rental, trucking and disposal of residential waste, $27,141 of this covered the NH/VT Solid Waste Project tipping fee.

Total operating expenses at the transfer station in calendar year 2002 were reported to the budget committee at $60,522 and include;

- the rental of one open top container, hauling and off-site disposal of construction and demolition debris: $10,857
- wages and payroll tax: $7,505
- the fifth of fifteen annual payments to the Sullivan County Regional Refuse Disposal District under the terms of a 1998 court settlement: $4,000
- miscellaneous expenses of $2,350 for utilities, repairs, scrap metal removal and managing a small volume of freon, fluorescent tubes and other hazardous items sent to the hazardous waste collection center in Keene.

The volume of construction and demolition debris and recycled materials handled at the transfer station has increased. The amount of Acworth's residential waste going to the incinerator has also increased significantly after remaining relatively constant for several years. Acworth needs to focus on reducing the amount of waste destined for disposal and to manage the transfer station responsibly in order to limit long term liabilities and to better protect air and water quality in the town and in the region.

RECYCLING INFORMATION
2002

Scrap metal is collected at the transfer station and shipped for processing. In late 2001 changes in the scrap market resulted in the town having to pay for metal removal. During 2002 the town began stockpiling metal at the transfer station for periodic removal in larger volumes.

Aluminum cans are collected at the transfer station and shipped for recycling.

Glass is collected, crushed and stored on site for future use.

Estimated amounts of marketable material shipped form Acworth for processing and recycling in 2002 (rounded to the nearest ton):

Tin cans: 3 tons.

Corrugated cardboard: 9 tons.

Newspaper: 7 tons, down from 11 tons in 2001. Some newspaper was diverted for animal bedding in 2002.

Magazines: 5 tons, down from 8 tons in 2001

Total: 24 tons, excluding glass, aluminum and scrap metal.

Avoided cost of disposal: 24 tons at $110/ton; approximately $2,600.

The Road Agent and Highway Department personnel provided assistance at the transfer station throughout the year. Hank Carr is the station attendant. Their work and dedication is appreciated as is the continued support and help provided by Acworth's recyclers.

The 20 year disposal contract between the Sullivan County Regional Refuse Disposal District and Wheelabrator expiries in four years. Acworth needs to address long range plans for waste management beyond 2007. Waste reduction and recycling will lessen dependence on off site disposal and can reduce future costs while protecting environmental resources.

John Tuthill,
SCRRDD Representative

CEMETERY TRUSTEES
2002 REPORT

Pursuant to statutory mandate, the Selectmen appointed Hanford Auten, Ruth Balla and Jane Esslinger as cemetery trustees this fall. These are positions that have not been filled for several decades. The trustees have met on numerous occasions since that time in an effort to review existing practices and procedures of the Cemetery Association, the sexton, the Trustees of the Trust Funds and the Town. Additionally, the trustees are instituting plans for the safeguarding of records, the expenditure of town and Trust Fund moneys for cemetery purposes and the formalization of the relationship between the Town and the Cemetery Association. The three current appointees have placed their names on the March ballot in anticipation of being able to complete the work that they have initiated.

MARRIAGES REGISTERED IN TOWN OF ACWORTH

01/01/2002 -- 12/31/2002

GROOM'S NAME	BRIDE'S NAME	RESIDENCE	DATE
TODD PORTER	TRACY PECOR	ACWORTH	04/20/2002
ERIC NUTTING	STACEY BARTH	CHARLESTOWN	06/22/2002
GRANT TALLMAN JR	DARLA FLETCHER	ACWORTH	07/04/2002
WILLIAM COSSABOON	JOAN BARRON	ACWORTH	07/20/2002
DANIEL HUNT	LAUREN RENTENBACH	ACWORTH	08/17/2002
PATRICK HARTY	MELISSA COPPLA	CLAREMONT	08/17/2002

BIRTHS REGISTERED IN THE TOWN OF ACWORTH

01/01/2002 -- 12/31/2002

NAME	DOB	PLACE	PARENTS
ROBYN ELIZABETH VASCONCELLOS	09/13/2002	CLAREMONT NH	ANTHONY & DANA VASCONCELLOS

DEATHS REGISTERED IN TOWN OF ACWORTH

01/01/2002 -- 12/31/2002

DATE	NAME	PLACE
03/02/2002	WILLIAM GUERRLICH	LEBANON N H
03/13/2002	IRMA V. DEMURO	SPRINGFIELD VT
05/15/2002	LILLIAM M. FRENCH	CLAREMONT N H
08/10/2002	MATTHEW P. WILSON	ACWORTH N H
09/08/2002	JOHN L. BALLA	UNITY N H

New Hampshire State Library
3 4677 00347609 5